

SECTION 1: Targeted Outreach and Health Education and Risk Reduction

Activities included in this section are intended to help agencies target their recruitment for HIV counseling and testing and other prevention services to persons at high risk for HIV. All recruitment, outreach, and health education and risk reduction activities must be followed with a completed referral into a prevention service. For persons of unknown serostatus or negative persons who have not tested in the past 6 months, this should be a referral for counseling, testing, and referral services.

A major concern in projects that involve community outreach is the safety of street outreach workers. Outreach and health education and risk reduction require peer volunteers and outreach specialists to be out on the streets of their community. The guidelines presented below are ways that the agency can support the safety of their peer volunteers when conducting street outreach:

- Let local authorities know about the project, its logo, its activities, and the people who will be involved in the project.
- Provide identification for project staff and volunteers.
- Whenever possible, arrange for staff and volunteers to work in teams or at least in pairs.
- Keep track of where staff and volunteers are during project activities.
- Based on the knowledge of the community, identify safe places in the community for staff and volunteers to conduct outreach.
- Avoid areas or times of the day that “everyone” knows are dangerous.
- Be sure that staff and volunteers know the best ways to exit the community in an emergency and have emergency numbers to call